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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A data bit stream is segmented into 4-bit data words, and for each 4-bit data word a corresponding 3-bit code word is detected in a conversion table. Two higher significant bits of each data word is converted to the detected code word so that a channel bit stream formed by a series of such code words has no consecutive 1's. A digital sum value of the channel bit stream is determined and a search is made for a code word "010" which is consecutive with a code word "000". The detected code word "010" is replaced with a substitute code word "000" if the replacement results in the digital sum value approaching zero.